

## Nazca Line Flights

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This Warden Message is to alert U.S. citizens to potential safety hazards of small commercial aircraft based at Maria Reiche airport in Nazca. The Embassy is aware of at least 10 different airplane emergencies resulting in 17 deaths since December 2007, most recently in October 2010 on the world-famous Nazca Lines, located in the southern Peruvian city of Nazca. Other incidents included emergency landings on the Pan American highway and the hijacking of a plane by unknown individuals.

In the last three years, there have been numerous irregularities in safety and security procedures at Maria Reiche airport, including allowing aircraft to fuel by bucket instead of tanker truck, allowing passengers to board without passing through the airport or undergoing a security screening, allowing construction of buildings at the end of the runway, and failure to install radar equipment. In addition, some of the small planes flying tourists over the Nazca Lines have been retrofitted to carry excess numbers of passengers, have been documented as lacking appropriate maintenance and have failed to carry sufficient fuel for emergencies. Because of these circumstances, the Nazca Lines flights were put off limits to US military personnel on liberty from a visiting naval aircraft carrier in April 2010.

End of Warden Message